



#15/C 88

Serial No. 09/458,779

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Martin Latterich et al.

Examiner: Katharine F. Davis

Serial No.: 09/458,779

Group Art Unit: 1636

Filed: December 10, 1999

Docket: 1211.001US1

Title: SEQUENCE AND METHOD FOR INCREASING PROTEIN EXPRESSION IN CELLULAR EXPRESSION SYSTEMS

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.31**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on July 5, 2001. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

This response is accompanied by a Petition, as well as the appropriate fee, to obtain a one-month extension of the period for responding to the Office action, thereby moving the deadline for response from October 5, 2001 to November 5, 2001.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please substitute the claim set in the appendix entitled Clean Version of Pending Claims for the previously pending claim set. The substitute claim set is intended to reflect amendment of previously pending claims 3, 4, 12, 14, 15, 25, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37 and 44. The specific amendments to individual claims are detailed in the following marked up set of claims.

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) A polynucleotide comprising a sequence encoding a functional vesicular fusion factor 2 protein (Vff2p), wherein the Vff2p has greater than 36% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:2[comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or a variant thereof], and wherein the Vff2p [is a yeast protein] increases yeast cell growth or protein secretion[involved in the secretory pathway and/or involved in the required cellular machinery for membrane fusion].
4. (Amended) The polynucleotide of claim 3, comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or a sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:2[variant thereof].